

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 STR-08 CEA-02 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

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DRC-01 /195 W

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R 161630Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7182

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 1 1 5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, TO, PFOR

SUBJ: CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY, JANUARY 13, 1974

REF: LOME 0098 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THEME OF THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY WAS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LIBERATION. CELEBRATION WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESENCE OF MOBUTU AND EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TOPROTRAY TOGO AS BEING ON SAME SUCCESSFUL PATH TO REAL LIBERATION AND AFRICAN CULTURAL IDENTITY AS THAT BLAZED BY ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT. WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE TO "AUTHENTICITY" RESULTED IN LAST-MINUTE PULLBACK FROM  
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FULL APPLICATION OF IT IN TOGO AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM MOMENT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S ARRIVAL MORNING OF 12 JANUARY UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FOR ABIDJAN AND GERMANY (STUTTGART AND BADEN-BADEN) ON MORNING 14 JANUARY, HE AND PRESIDENT EYADEMA WERE DISPLAYED SIDE BY SIDE IN CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO SHOW THAT TOGOLESE REGIME IS FOLLOWING SAME ROAD TO LIBERATION, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL, AS THAT ALONG WIGTNU HAS SO SUCCESSFULLY MARCHED IN ZAIRE.

2. MINDFUL OF LAST YEAR'S FIASCO, IN WHICH LOMEANS BOYCOTTED JANUARY 13 CELEBRATION (BECAUSE "LIBERATION" WAS UNFORTUNATELY TIED TO TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF OLYMPIO'S MURDER), EYADEMA SOUGHT TO ASSURE FAVORABLE CLIMATE THIS YEAR BY HIS JANUARY 10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DENUNCIATION OF AGREEMENT WITH PHOSPHATE COMPANY AND OF 10 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE. HE ALSO SOUGHT TO MEND HIS FENCES WITH CATHOLICS, WHO DISLIKE MOBUTU, AND OTHER CLERGY BY POLITELY IF FIRMLY SUGGESTING THEY RESCHEDULE THEIR SUNDAY SERVICES TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH PARADE - AND BACKING UP HIS REQUEST WITH WELCOME CASH GIFTS TO THOSE COMPLYING.

3. THROUGHOUT WEEK LEADING UP TO CELEBRATION THERE WERE UNMISTAKABLE SIGNS (REFTEL) THAT EYADEMA MIGHT USE IT TO ANNOUNCE AUTHENTICITY MEASURES SIMILAR TO THOSE ADOPTED IN ZAIRE. (WHEN I ASKED MAHOR SIVOMEY IF, "WHEN STREET NAMES ARE CHANGED IN LOME," WHETHER AVENUE DUISBERG - A LOME TWIN-CITY - WOULD ALSO BE CHANGED, SHE REPLIED SERIOUSLY, "NO, WE NAMED IT." MOBUTU HIMSELF REMARKED ABOUT LOME THAT "AT ANY MOMENT I FEEL THAT I AM IN SOME PART OF ZAIRE." HE MADE "AUTHENTICITY" KEYNOTE OF HIS SPEECH TO TOGOLESE MILITANTS ON 12 JANUARY. SAYING THAT THIS WAS WHAT THEY HAD JUST SHOWN HIM, HE WENT ON TO GLORIFY "NEGRO" WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS DENIGRATED BY WHITES. PRESIDENT'S INFLUENTIAL DIRECTOR OF CABINET LACLE USED SAME OCCASION FOR CONGRATULATING MOBUTU ON RESTORING AFRICA'S ESCUTCHEON, SULLIED BY WHITES, THROUGH HIS POLICY OF AUTHENTICITY. TOGO'S LEFTIST INFORMATION MINISTER EKLO MADE AUTHENTICITY CENTRAL THEME OF HIS SPEECH, SAYING THAT AUTHENTICITY MEANS THAT IN GOING TO MEET THEIR GOD AFRICANS MUST TAKE DIRECT FLIGHT, AFRICA-HEAVEN, NO LONGER STOPPING IN ROME OR NEW YORK. TO DO SO, HOWEVER, THEIR PASSPORTS FOR THIS LONG VOYAGE WILL HAVE TO BEAR AUTHENTIC AFRICAN NAMES.

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4. EYADEMA DID NOT SPEAK AT THIS AFFAIR OR ON FOLLOWING DAY AT LUNCHEON FOR MOBUTU. ONE CREDIBLE REPORT NOW CIRCULATING IS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HUNLEDE, EDUCATION MINISTER MALOU (OF ALL MINISTERS THE CLOSEST PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT), AND COMMERCE MINISTER TEVI, ALL THREE OF WHOM HAD REPORTEDLY OPPOSED "AUTHENTICITY" ALL ALONG, MANAGED TO CHANGE HIS MIND WITH LAST MINUTE APPEAL TO HIM BASED ON THEIR BROAD SOUNDINGS AMONG POPULATION, WHOM THEY FOUND GREATLY OPPOSED TO MEASURES

ENVISAGED. ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER PRESIDENT'S LAST-MINUTE PULLBACK IS DEFINITIVE OR ONLY TACTICAL.

5. DESPITE FOREGOING, "LIBERATION DAY" WAS DEFINITELY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN IN OTHER YEARS SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE. PARADE CAME OFF REASONABLY WELL AND THERE WAS NO OPEN MOVEMENT AS LAST YEAR TO BOYCOTT IT. AS WITH "AUTHENTICITY," CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION EXISTED OVER WHICH EVENT WAS BEING CELEBRATED AS "NATIONAL LIBERATION DAY," WITH SOME BANNERS CALLING IT ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY (OLYMPIO'S MURDER) AND TOGO-PRESSE DESCRIBING IT AS SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY (OF ARMY TAKEOVER). CERTAINLY, PRESIDENT'S POPULARITY IS AT A HIGH POINT, AFTER HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF TWO POPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES. A REMINDER THAT ALL IS NOT FORGIVEN, HOWEVER, WAS FACT THAT ONCE AGAIN, DURING EARLY MORNING OF JANUARY 13, FLOWERS WERE REPORTEDLY LEFT NEAR SPOT AT THIS EMBASSY WHERE A CERTAIN UNEMPLOYED FRENCH ARMY VETERAN KILLED OLYMPIO IN 1963.

6. WHETHER THIS YEAR'S JANUARY 13 CELEBRATION WAS REALLY AS SUCCESSFUL BELOW SURFACE AS IT APPEARED TO BE, EYADEMA WAS DEMONSTRABLY IMPRESSED BY IT - SO MUCH SO THAT IT HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT INDEPENDENCE DAY, APRIL 27 (A VASTLY MORE POPULAR HOLIDAY), WILL BE CELEBRATED THIS YEAR UNDER SIGN OF ZAIRIAN-TOGOLESE FRIENDSHIP. MOBUTU IS SAID TO HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND, ALONG WITH 350 MPR MILITANTS, INCLUDING LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES, ANIMATORS, AND HIGH-RANKING ZAIRIAN MILITARY OFFICERS. TOGOLESE PARACHUTIST BATTALION, NOW TRAINING IN ZAIRE, WILL RETURN FOR EVENT. TOGO AND ZIRE WILL, IT SAID, THUS SHOW WAY TO AFRICAN UNITY, COMMON OBJECTIVE OF TWO PRESIDENTS AND POLITICAL PARTIES.  
DICKINSON

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